

## Growth of LIS Literature as Reflected in ILA Bulletin (1995-2001): A Study

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**ABSTRACT:** *Discusses the growth of LIS literature as published in ILA Bulletin. Reviews the literature form 1995- 2001 and gives finding based on the study. The study discloses an uneven distribution of published literature among various topics of LIS. The study asserts that, IT based papers received less space compared to non IT based papers and most of the contributions were of single authors.*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The primary and important role of literature is to record and translate the ideas on discoveries; inventions, new technologies, etc. that brings advanced knowledge. The production and growth of literature, in a particular field over different period of time, is the reflections of research activities, technological innovations and developments in any profession. The sporadic and inter- disciplinary nature of research results the growth of literature in any subject field and LIS literature is not an exception to this dictum.

The decade- long growth of LIS literature has been quite encouraging as there has been a sharp rise in LIS literature decade after decade. It is a historic movement for the LIS literature when the first professional periodical, "Library Journal" came into existence. It was the sole contribution of well known library doyen, Melvil Dewey which is fitted with traditional, modern and virtual arena of librarianship. His first foundation of LIS periodical, first library education school, and spectacular work on organization of knowledge in library, promoted the publication of literature through out the world [1]. India traditionally rich in learning and knowledge since Vedic times does not lag behind in this field. The country occupies a significant position in the world output of library and information literature in English language, next only to that of USA and UK in quantity [2].

Though the country had libraries in the ancient and medieval times, the true concept of library germinated under the British rule. The enactment of library law in UK and USA in the second half of the 19th century had their impact on India [3]. The Library Science education in India started as early as 1911 but it was only after the second world war that it was gradually recognized as full-fledged discipline and separate departments were set up in different universities offering

courses leading to Bachelors and Masters degree [4].

Realising that library is an important component for furthering research led the LIS professionals to look at their effective and meaningful functioning in terms of innovations and applications of new technologies in library management; rendering effective services to the users to the problems faced by professionals and, obtaining recognition of their official positions, etc., have all inspired to initiate research and publications of LIS literature in India. As most of the research output and original findings or new application of existing knowledge are reported in periodicals, a number of periodicals in LIS were started in India by various library associations, university departments, individual professional luminaries, and learned bodies. The first Indian periodical that created a mile stone in the history of LIS Literature was, "Library Miscellany" started in 1912 by Baroda State Department of Libraries. This in fact, was as a major land-mark in publication of periodicals, thought its' publication ceased in 1919 [5].

The oldest national association of libraries, "The Indian Library Association," (ILA), one of the apex professional body involved actively in promoting the development of libraries and information services in India was started in 1933. The said association stated its official library bulletin "ILA Bulletin", (from 1942 -1946), followed by (1949- 1953); and then the Journal of Indian Library Association (1955-64) respectively. When ILA was finally based at Delhi, it started a fresh journal "ILA Bulletin" from 1965 which is still continuing and playing a significant role in promoting and strengthening of LIS literature in India [6]. The bulletin has now stepped into the third millennium with January 2001 issue, according to the chronological calculations. Over the years, there have been constant improvements made to this bulletin. The issues from 2001 onwards has got a new look with volume numbering

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coinciding with calendar year instead of fiscal year [7]. Also the contents of the bulletin have been broadly divided into research articles, short communications, informative articles, opinions, etc. apart from the regular columns of editorial, letters, book reviews etc. Now, this journal is considered as one of the best known referred journal in the field of LIS research in India.

### 2. METHODOLOGY

ILA Bulletins of past seven years from 1995-2001 have been considered for the purpose of the present study. The contents in the form of research papers/articles published there in have been classified, analysed, and grouped so as to find out the various indicators of the study and to fulfill the survey objectives.

### 3. OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of the present study is to identify the following :

- 3.1 The growth of LIS literature in general and literature with slant to IT;
- 3.2 The nature and trend in the growth of LIS literature published in ILA Bulletin between 1995-2001;
- 3.3 The areas/topic receiving more or less attention from LIS professionals;
- 3.4 To identify research based and article based papers published in the ILA Bulletin;
- 3.5 To identify State wise contributors to the ILA Bulletin; and
- 3.6 To ascertain the pattern of authorship.

### 4. SOURCES OF DATA AND LIMITATIONS

The present study aims to analyse the literature content published in ILA bulletin from 1995-2002 (September). Hence, the source of data comprises in articles 1 research papers published in ILA Bulletins of the above stated period. The entire analysis and interpretation of the study is based on the data collected from this bulletin only. The idea of carrying out this study is to provoke further discussion and reflections on the trends of growth of LIS literature and the influence of IT in LIS literature, rather than to sharply draw any perpetual conclusions.

### 5. ANALYSES OF DATA

**Table 1 : Distribution of Literature By IT & Non-IT Based Papers**

| Type of Literature  | No. of Papers | Total Percentage(%) |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| IT Based Papers     | 22            | 32.84 %             |
| Non IT Based Papers | 45            | 67.16 %             |
| <b>Total</b>        | <b>67</b>     | <b>100.00%</b>      |

Table-1 indicates the distribution of periodical literature published in ILA Bulletin in general and literature with slant to IT in particular. It is observed that the bulletin published in all, only 22 articles (32.84%) related to information technology and 45 articles (67.16%) on LIS in general. It is further noted that, although there has been a marked increase in the growth and output of LIS literature with slant to IT during the past 7 years, surprisingly non-TT based LIS papers are still finding more space in the ILA Bulletin.

**Table 2 : Subject-wise Distribution of LIS Literature**

| Sl. No.                                 | Subject wise distribution          | No. of Papers | Percentage (%) |
|---|------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| <b>LIS LITERATURE NOT SLANTED TO IT</b> |                                    |               |                |
| 01.                                     | Accountability & LIS Profession    | 01            | 01.50          |
| 02.                                     | Catalog                            | 01            | 01.50          |
| 03.                                     | Classification                     | 01            | 01.50          |
| 04.                                     | Citation/ Bibliometric Study       | 05            | 07.42          |
| 05.                                     | College Libraries                  | 02            | 02.98          |
| 06.                                     | Cost Benefit Analysis              | 01            | 01.50          |
| 07.                                     | Delivery of Books Act              | 01            | 01.50          |
| 08.                                     | Human Resource /Manpower           | 04            | 05.97          |
| 09.                                     | Indexing/Abstracting               | 01            | 01.50          |
| 10.                                     | Knowledge Management               | 01            | 01.50          |
| 11.                                     | Library Services                   | 03            | 04.47          |
| 12.                                     | Library Use                        | 03            | 04.47          |
| 13.                                     | Library & Information Centres      | 02            | 02.98          |
| 14.                                     | LIS Education                      | 07            | 10.44          |
| 15.                                     | Library Information Policy         | 01            | 01.50          |
| 16.                                     | Marketing Library Resource         | 01            | 01.50          |
| 17.                                     | Public Libraries                   | 01            | 01.50          |
| 18.                                     | Reading Habits                     | 01            | 01.50          |
| 19.                                     | Research in LIS                    | 02            | 02.98          |
| 20.                                     | School Libraries                   | 01            | 01.50          |
| 21.                                     | Status of Library Professionals    | 03            | 04.47          |
| 22.                                     | User Education Programme           | 02            | 02.98          |
| <b>Total</b>                            |                                    | <b>45</b>     | <b>67.16</b>   |
| <b>LIS LITERATURE WITH SLANT TO IT</b>  |                                    |               |                |
| 01.                                     | Bar Coding                         | 01            | 01.50          |
| 02.                                     | Database Management                | 04            | 05.97          |
| 03.                                     | Digital Libraries                  | 02            | 02.98          |
| 04.                                     | Information Storage & Retrieval    | 01            | 01.50          |
| 05.                                     | Information Technology(in general) | 01            | 01.50          |
| 06.                                     | Internet                           | 02            | 02.98          |
| 07.                                     | Library Automation                 | 04            | 05.97          |
| 08.                                     | Networking                         | 03            | 04.47          |
| 09.                                     | Online Searching                   | 01            | 01.50          |
| 10.                                     | Secondary Storage Media/CD ROM     | 03            | 04.47          |
| <b>Total</b>                            |                                    | <b>22</b>     | <b>32.84</b>   |
| <b>Grand Total (45+22)</b>              |                                    | <b>67</b>     | <b>100.00%</b> |

To ascertain the subject wise growth in LIS literature published in ILA Bulletin, ranking of subject was made and results are shown in table 2. It is observed that, a total of 67 papers on different aspects of LIS literature have been published during the period under study. The broad subject break down of literature represented by these articles shows that, 45 (67.16 %) of papers were published on different aspects of LIS in general with 7 articles (10.44%) on LIS Education; followed by 5 (7.42%) on Citation Indexing; 4(5.97%) on Human Resource/ Manpower Development; and 3(4.47%) each on Library Use and Status of Library Professional respectively. These were the most popular areas of writing by the LIS professionals. Topics like, Library Services, Library and Information Centre, Reading Habits, User Education Programme etc. received 2 (2.98%) papers each. However, contributions made to the said bulletin on other areas like, Classification, Cataloguing, Delivery of Book Act, Indexing, Library Information Policy, Research in LIS etc. are found scarcely sufficient. On the other hand, LIS literature with Slant to Information Technology is quite encouraging as, a total of only 22 (32.84 %) papers on different aspects of IT were published. The highest number of 4 (5.97%) articles were published on "Library Automation" and Database Management; followed by Network Storage Media like CD ROM etc. with 3(4.47~0) articles respectively. Modern areas like, Internet and Digital libraries received only 2(2.98%) articles each. Thus, areas like Database Management and Library Automation received more number of papers due to the fact that these are the basic IT activities initiated in the modern libraries.

It is further observed that, the professionals those who are working in IT environment also asserts that, even though IT revolution has gained revolution has gained considerable importance in the contemporary libraries, IT based articles have found less space in ILA Bulletin compared to LIS literature in general. Further investigation is, therefore, required to find out the possible reasons attributed to such low space given to IT- based literature.

**Table 3 : Distribution of Literature According to Type of Papers**

| Type of Papers           | No of Papers | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1. Research Based Papers | 25           | 37.31          |
| 2. Article Based Paper   | 42           | 62.69          |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>67</b>    | <b>100.00%</b> |

Table-3 above shows the characteristics of papers published in ILA Bulletin. An article was considered a research article if it resulted from the use of one or more of the following

methods for data collection viz. Survey method, Experimental method, Historical method Statistical method or Comparative method. All other articles were considered merely informative (article based). The study above reveals that only 25 (37.31%) out of 67 papers are found research- based articles in the form of case studies or surveys while the remaining 42 (62.69%) papers are article- based or merely informative in nature: The content of the articles are mostly descriptive rather than investigative and majority of the articles are neither based on through study nor these are supported by wider number of references or bibliographies.

A similar study of LIS literature by Umapathy [8] reveals that, over 90% of the currently published articles in the field are descriptive and are not based on investigations. Thus, the findings of the present investigation match with that of the result of earlier study. In order to promote research in LIS, every efforts should be made to develop some kind of mechanism to publish research studies under taken presently in the various Post Graduate Department of Library and Information Sciences or similar Library Schools functioning in the country which can substantially enrich the growth of LIS literature further.

**Table 4 : State Wise Distribution of Contributors to ILA Bulletin**

| States               | No of Authors | Rank Order | Percentage (%) |
|----------------------|---------------|------------|----------------|
| <b>NATIONAL</b>      |               |            |                |
| 01. Andhra Pradesh   | 08            | 03         | 11.93          |
| 02. Assam            | 01            | 08         | 01.50          |
| 03. Delhi            | 10            | 01         | 14.92          |
| 04. Gujarat          | 02            | 07         | 02.98          |
| 05. Haryana          | 03            | 06         | 04.47          |
| 06. Himachal Pradesh | 01            | 08         | 01.50          |
| 07. Jammu & Kashmir  | 01            | 08         | 01.50          |
| 08. Karnataka        | 03            | 06         | 04.47          |
| 09. Kerela           | 03            | 06         | 04.47          |
| 10. Madhya Pradesh   | 04            | 05         | 05.47          |
| 11. Maharastra       | 07            | 04         | 10.44          |
| 12. Meghalaya        | 02            | 07         | 02.98          |
| 13. Orissa           | 01            | 08         | 01.50          |
| 14. Punjab           | 09            | 02         | 13.43          |
| 15. Rajasthan        | 01            | 08         | 01.50          |
| 16. Tamil Nadu       | 02            | 07         | 02.99          |
| 17. Uttar Pradesh    | 03            | 06         | 04.48          |
| 18. Uttranchal       | 01            | 08         | 01.50          |
| 19. West Bengal      | 04            | 05         | 05.97          |
|                      | 66            |            | 98.50          |
| <b>INTERNATIONAL</b> |               |            |                |
| 01. Pakistan & UK    | 01            | 08         | 01.50          |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>67</b>     |            | <b>100.00%</b> |



Table- 4 details the State wise contribution of literature to ILA Bulletin by authors in the country and foreign based authors. It is observed from the above table that most of the 98.50% are Indian based authors, while only one (1.49) paper was contributed by authors based in Pakistan and UK. State-wise contribution to ILA Bulletin shows that, the highest 10 (14.92 %) of papers have been contributed by authors based in Delhi, followed by 9 (13.43 %) papers from Punjab and 8 (11.94%) papers from Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra 7 (10.44) papers from Maharastra-based authors respectively. Authors based in West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh contributed 4 papers each and as such jointly rank 5th in order. The study further shows that the bulletin has the representations of authors from 19 out of 30 states in India.

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Topics like, Library Services, Library and Information Centre, Reading Habits, User Education Programme etc. received 2 (2.98%) papers each. However, contributions made to the said bulletin on other areas like, Classification, Cataloguing, Delivery of Book Act, Indexing, Library Information Policy, Research in LIS etc. are found scarcely sufficient. On the other hand, LIS literature with Slant to Information Technology is quite encouraging as, a total of only 22 (32.84 %) papers on different aspects of IT were published. The highest number of 4 (5.97%) articles were published on "Library Automation" and Database Management; followed by Networking Storage Media like CD ROM etc. with 3 (4.47%) articles respectively. Modern areas like, Internet and Digital libraries received only 2 (2.98%) articles each. Thus, areas like Database and Library Automation received more number of papers due to the fact that these are the basic IT activities initiated in the modern libraries.

It is further observed that, the professionals those who are working in IT environment have been expressing their pragmatic experience through their writings in periodicals. The

study also asserts that, even though IT revolution has gained revolution has gained considerable importance in the contemporary libraries, IT based articles have found less space in ILA Bulletin compared to LIS literature in general. Further investigation is, therefore, required to find out the possible reasons attributed to such low space given to IT- based literature.

However, there has been a very few contributions from the authors representing North Eastern part of India and no contributions from states like Goa, Sikkim, and Bihar, etc. The Bulletin has also attracted the authors from abroad viz. UK and Pakistan. To have a wider representations of authors in the country, it would be worthwhile if authors from different states of the country were invited or motivated to write on the emerging topics of LIS, reflecting their pragmatic experiences in libraries, research-based articles suggesting ways and means to improve the existing LIS services in the country, besides stating on-going progress in the field of Information Progress in Information Technology or problems encountered by them and solutions to over come these problems in effectively managing and handling information achieving, transmission, and diffusion.

**Table 5 : Distribution of Papers According to Number of Contributors (Authorship Pattern)**

| Contributors                        | Number of Authors | Percentage (%) |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| 1. Single Author                    | 30                | 44.78          |
| 2. Joint Authors (two)              | 23                | 34.33          |
| 3. Joint Authors<br>(more than two) | 14                | 20.89          |
| <b>Total</b>                        | <b>67</b>         | <b>100.00%</b> |

Table- 5 identifies the distribution of articles in the bulletin according to Number of authors/ contributors. It is interesting to note that, a total of 30 (44.78%) number of articles have been written by single authors which constitutes 44.78 % of the total out put ;on the other hand, 23 ((34.33%) articles have been contributed by two authors and the remaining 14 (20.89%) of papers have been contributed jointly by more than two authors. This shows that, team sprit or collaborative contributions to LIS writing is not so popular among the LIS authors and there is a strong need for motivation for collaborative research. However, if contributions made by two and more than two authors together are taken into account it seems that a total of 37 (23+14) joint contributors contributed their papers to the ILA bulletin which together constitute 55.22% (34.33+20.89) of the total output which is obviously higher than the then contributions made by single authors.

## 6. OBSERVATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

On the basis of the above analysis and discussions, the following findings can be formulated:

- 1) The literature reviewed in ILA Bulletin shows that, there is an uneven distribution of literature published among various topics of Library and Information Science. While some of the topics have received considerable attention, others have just been touched, for instance, the popular topics of writing by the professionals is LIS Education (7) Citation Indexing (5), Library Automation, (4) Database Management, (4) Human Resource Development (4) Library Use and Services etc. (3). On the contrary topics like, Cataloguing, Classification, Accountability in LIS, Books Act, Information Policy, Marketing Library Resources, Research in LIS, Bar Coding, Storage and Retrieval of Information etc., have just been touched.
- 2) Although IT revolution has gained considerable importance in libraries, IT based papers (22) have surprisingly found less space in ILA Bulletin compared to LIS literature in general (45). The most popular topic of writing in the field of IT has been Library Automation, Database Management, Networking, Electronic Storage Media like, CD - ROM etc. These topics seem to be predominant in growth of LIS literature compared to other means of IT.
- 3) A good number of papers published in the ILA Bulletin are article- based, which are mere repetitions of ideas already written about. It has been observed that, only 25 number (37.31 %) of papers are research based articles in the form of case studies, survey, etc., and the remaining 42 (62.69 %) of papers are article- based. The content of the articles are mostly descriptive rather than investigative. Also, most of the papers are not supported by wider references or bibliographies.
- 4) Contribution of literature by authors shows that, a majority of the authors contributing for ILA Bulletin are from Delhi (10), Punjab(9), Andhra Pradesh (8), Maharashtra (7), and West Bengal (4) and as such rank first, second, third, fourth and fifth positions among the total contributors respectively. The Bulletin received very less attention from authors based in North Eastern States and there has been no contributions from authors in Goa, Sikkim, Bihar, etc. To have a wider presentation of authors from different states in the country, it would be

better if they were invited to write on improvement of library services in their respective states, progress made in application of latest technologies or local problems.

- 5) Majority of the papers are contributed by single authors as the study shows that the highest number of 34 (44.78 %) papers have been written by single authors and 23 (34.33 %) papers are joint contributions. Only the remaining 14 (20.89%) papers have been contributed by three or more authors, which shows that the team work received low profile among the contributors of ILA Bulletin. However, if joint authors of two and more than two are taken into account together they constitute 55.22%(37) of the total contributors.
- 6) There are a very few papers which offer solutions to the problems faced by the professionals of library and information science in India. The practice of publishing invited papers on emerging trends in LIS is found missing.
- 7) The bulletin has been given a new look from volume xxxvii onwards with Short Communications, Proceedings, Research Articles, Opinions, Informative articles, which is quite impressive and gives a wider scope for covering different aspects of LIS literature.

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